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BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

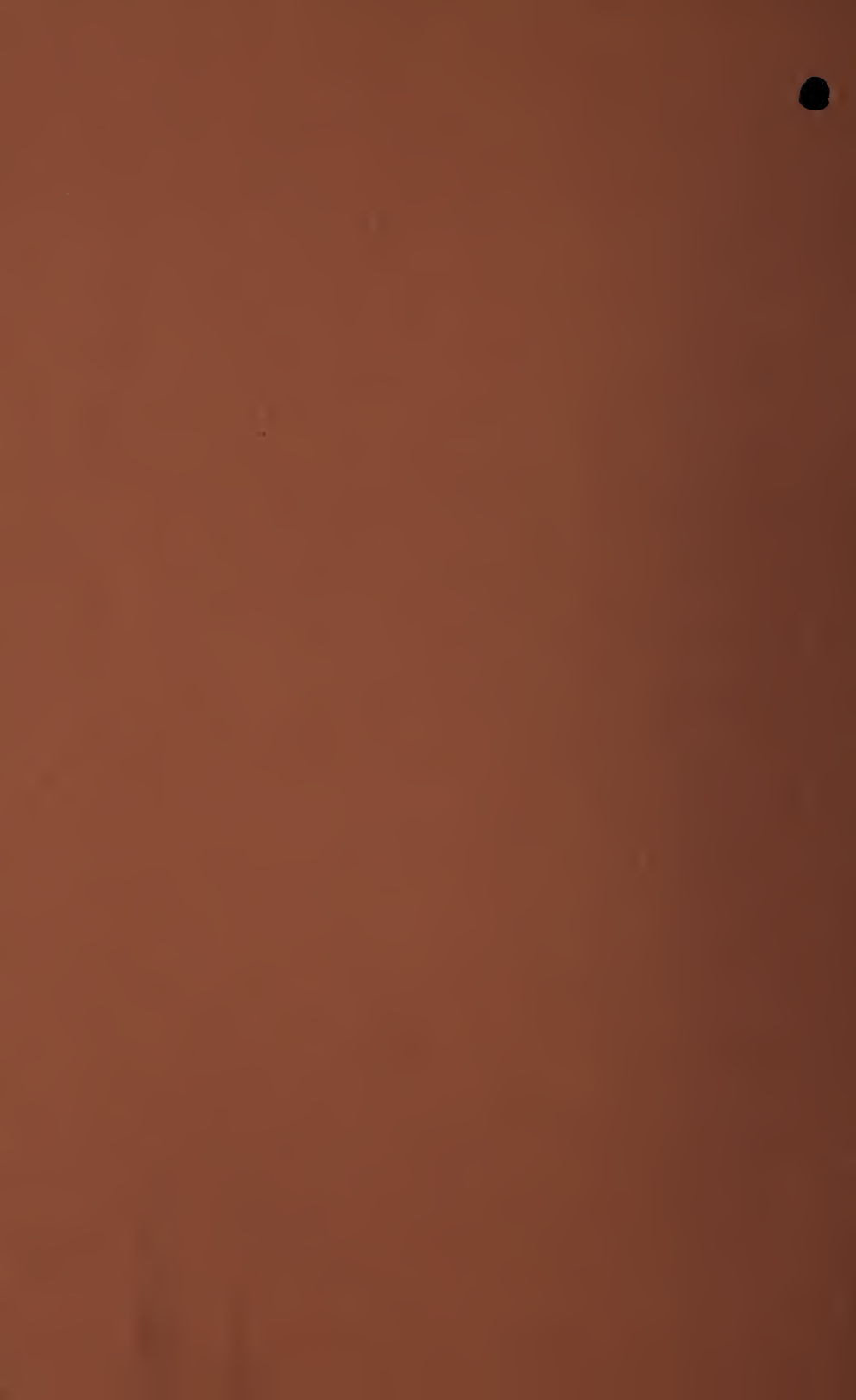
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Chief Sanitary Inspector



FOR THE YEAR 1955

E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

A. McCARTNEY,
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HEALTH COMMITTEE*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Borough of Wrexham for 1955. The Report follows the form laid down in the Welsh Board of Health Circular 42/51.

The mid-year estimated population figure as given by the Registrar General was 32,330—an increase of 40 over the previous year's population. The Birth Rate has remained steady, but there has been a slight rise in the Death Rate.

A total of 16 infants under the age of one died during the year, giving an Infantile Morality Rate of 30.18. This is an increase compared with the 1954 figure when the Infantile Mortality Rate was 18.6.

In the early part of the year there was a considerable outbreak of Measles (898 cases), amongst infants and young children this resulted in some loss of schooling. Whooping Cough notifications totalled 71, showing little decrease over previous years notifications in spite of the protective immunisation offered. As has already been reported in previous reports, about 25% only of the total number of infants born annually within the Borough are immunised against this disease before the age of one year. This unfortunate state cannot be entirely attributed to lack of publicity, or to failure of the Welfare Clinic to recommend to the parents the advantages of having their children immunised. There is no doubt much indifference on the part of the parents.

It is pleasing to report that there was only one mild case of Infantile Paralysis reported during the year. Deaths from Tuberculosis was reduced to one, unfortunately there has been little reduction in the number of fresh cases reported.

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited the town, the attendance was poor compared with that of previous years. No new cases of Lung Tuberculosis were discovered.

As regards housing, a total of 348 houses and flats were erected during the calendar year, rather less than for the previous year. The number of applicants on the waiting list has arisen in spite of the continuous rehousing programme. At December, 1954, the total number of applicants was 1,004, by December, 1955 this had increased to 1,055. The demand is thus still greater than the supply.

Within the next five years an additional 386 houses will be required to rehouse families under the Slum Clearance Scheme which is now

under way. This will cause an increase in the waiting period for Council Houses, The allocation of Council Houses to householders may require reviewing.

I wish to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the Office Staff for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Abattoir Superintendent:

A. McCARTNEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

BERNARD JONES, HYWEL JONES, S. J. V. JAMES

J. H. MORRIS (Commenced April, 1955).

Articled Pupil Sanitary Inspector:

TECWYN ROBERTS

Clerk to the Health Department:

Miss M. M. PARRY

Clerks to the Sanitary Inspector's Department:

Miss M. B. PARRY

Miss G. HUGHES

Hon Meteorologist:

S. E. ASHMORE, B.Sc.

HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Chairman: Alderman CYRIL O. JONES, B.A.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor WM. EVANS

ALDERMAN	Mrs. E. C. BREESE	COUNCILLOR	Mrs. HAYNES
"	DUTTON	"	G. H. JONES.
"	Mrs. C. JARVIS JONES	"	LINDSAY
"	EMYR WILLIAMS	"	E. PRICE.
COUNCILLOR	Mrs. CHALLONER	"	R. ROBERTS
"	COOPER	"	R. G. ROBERTS
"	CRAIG	"	T. F. THOMAS
"	EDWARD DAVIES	"	TAPLEY
"	J. A. DAVIES	"	STABLER
"	GRIFFITHS		

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	... ..	2916 Acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	... ..	32,330 (mid-annual)
Rateable Value of the Borough, April 1st, 1956	... ..	£379,291
Product of a Penny Rate	... ..	£765
No. of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1955)	... ..	9,627
No. of Corporation Houses	do do	4,312
Density of Persons per House	... ..	3.4

POPULATION TRENDS SINCE 1945

Year.	Population.	Annual Increase	Natural Increase
1945	25,670 Estimated Figure	— 300	176
1946	27,800 " "	+2130	226
1947	28,450 " "	+ 650	289
1948	29,100 " "	+ 650	272
1949	29,710 " "	+ 610	215
1950	30,470 " "	+ 760	206
1951	30,940 Census Figure	+ 470	164
1952	32,090 Estimated Figure	+1150	209
1953	32,420 " "	+ 330	196
1954	32,290 " "	— 130	200
1955	32,330 " "	+ 40	159

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population (R.G. Estimate Mid-annual) 32,330

Comparability Factors:—

Deaths	... ..	1.06
Births	... ..	.97

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 530 live births, of which 294 were Males and 236 Females. This is a decrease of 9 as compared with the previous year.

The total number of illegitimate births was 23, of which 20 were Males and 3 Females. The total number of illegitimate births for 1954 was 27.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live births (Legitimate)	274	233	507
Live births (Illegitimate)	20	3	23
	<hr/> 294	<hr/> 236	<hr/> 530

Birth Rate (Adjusted) per 1,000 population	15.9
England and Wales	15.0

Birth Rate

The Birth Rate for previous years and for 1955 is as follows:

1944... ..	20.3	1950... ..	17.2
1945... ..	19.9	1951... ..	17.8
1946... ..	20.8	1952	17.1
1947... ..	23.6	1953... ..	15.46
1948... ..	20.1	1954	15.18
1949... ..	20.7	1955... ..	15.9

Stillbirths.

There was a total of 14 Stillbirths during the year, as compared with 15 during the previous year.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Stillbirths (Legitimate)	3	11	14
do Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 14

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population	0.43
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Stillbirths) ...	25.7
England and Wales	23.1

The following table shows the number of stillbirths, the stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and per 1,000 population for the past twelve years.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Stillbirths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population</i>
1944	26	47.0	1.0
1945	21	39.3	0.8
1946	22	36.7	0.7
1947	19	27.5	0.6
1948	16	26.6	0.5
1949	20	35.9	0.7
1950	21	37.2	0.6
1951	20	36.9	0.64
1952	10	17.2	0.31
1953	15	28.1	0.46
1954	15	27.0	0.46
1955	14	25.7	0.43

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 371. This figure is 32 more than occurred in 1954. The total number of Males who died was 213 and Females 158.

<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
213	158	371

Death Rate (Adjusted) per 1,000 population	12.16
England and Wales	11.7

Death Rate.

The Adjusted Death Rate (taking the comparability factor into consideration) is 12.16. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.7. The death rate for previous years and for 1955 is as follows:

1944... ..	12.5	1950	11.8
1945... ..	13.1	1951... ..	11.04
1946... ..	12.6	1952... ..	11.95
1947... ..	13.4	1953... ..	10.49
1948... ..	10.7	1954... ..	11.16
1949	12.9	1955	12.16

The following table gives the causes of death:

<i>Causes</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory... ..	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other... ..	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infection	—	1	1

7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	...	—	...	—
8. Measles	—	...	1	...	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	...	—	...	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	11	...	5	...	16
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung Bronchus ...	12	...	1	...	13
12. Malignant neoplasm, Breast	1	...	2	...	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	—	...	1	...	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	...	10	...	26
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	...	—	...	—
16. Diabetes	—	...	2	...	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	31	...	28	...	59
18. Coronary disease, angina	40	...	22	...	62
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	...	3	...	4
20. Other heart disease	28	...	32	...	60
21. Other circulatory disease	1	...	7	...	8
22. Influenza	2	...	1	...	3
23. Pneumonia	6	...	5	...	11
24. Bronchitis	20	...	5	...	25
25. Other disease of the respiratory system ...	7	...	1	...	8
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	...	—	...	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	...	2	...	3
28. Nephritis, nephrosis	7	...	3	...	10
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	...	—	...	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	...	—	...	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	...	3	...	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	16	...	19	...	35
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	...	—	...	1
34. All other accidents	3	...	2	...	5
35. Suicide	—	...	2	...	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	...	—	...	—
<hr/>					
	213	...	158	...	371
<hr/>					

Neo-Natal Deaths.

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks. There were 9 deaths in all, 6 being Males and 3 Females. One illegitimate child died.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	6	3	9

Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 live births 16.98

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 16 infants died under the age of 1 year. This figure compares less favourably with 1954 figure when there were 10 infant deaths.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	8	6	14
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	10	6	16

The Infantile Mortality Rate was	30.18
England and Wales	24.9

The Infantile Mortality Rate for previous year and for 1955 is shown as follows:

1944... ..	58.8	1950... ..	44.2
1945... ..	76.0	1951... ..	28.7
1946... ..	39.9	1952... ..	35.02
1947... ..	53.6	1953... ..	32.9
1948... ..	37.7	1954... ..	18.6
1949... ..	50.4	1955	30.18

The following table gives the causes of death occurring in infants under 1 year.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>		<i>Causes of Death</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
50 minutes	1		Birth injury.
6 hours	1		Pulmonary Atelectasis.
16 hours	1		Congenital Atelectasis.
1 day	1		Pulmonary Atelectasis.
1 day	1		Intracranial Haemorrhage.
1 day		1	Prematurity.
3 days	1		Congenital abnormality.
4 days		1	Atelectasis.
1 week		1	Multiple Congenital Abnormalities.
1 month		1	Congenital Abnormalities.
3 months	1		Acute Bilateral Broncho-pneumonia.
3 months	1		Congenital Heart Disease.
4 months		1	Bronchiolitis and Pulmonary Collapse.
4 months	1		Congenital Abnormalities.
8 months		1	Acute Bronchiolitis.
10 months	1		Gastro-enteritis.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year. The last Maternal Death within the Borough occurred in 1946.

Cancer Deaths.

There were 59 deaths from Cancer during the year, this being equal to the figure for 1954. The cancer deaths had increased by 5 in Male over the previous year and diminished by 5 in Female.

The ratio of Cancer deaths to total deaths is 1:6.3 as compared with 1:5.74 in 1954. The percentage of Cancer deaths to total deaths is 15.9.

	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	11	5	16
Lung and Bronchus	12	1	13
Breast	1	2	3
Uterus... ..	—	1	1
Others	16	10	26
	40	19	59

The total number of Cancer Deaths and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to total deaths since 1944 is shown in the following table—

Year	Total No. of Deaths	Cancer Deaths			Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths
		Male	Female	Total	
1944	324	27	22	49	15.1
1945	337	14	30	44	13.1
1946	351	23	30	53	15.1
1947	382	36	26	62	16.2
1948	312	28	23	51	16.3
1949	360	26	28	64	17.8
1950	337	26	27	53	15.7
1951	358	25	27	52	14.5
1952	362	32	21	53	14.6
1953	321	26	24	50	15.6
1954	339	35	24	59	17.4
1955	371	40	19	59	15.9

Heart Disease.

Heart disease was responsible for 126 deaths. Of these 69 were Males and 57 were Females. The percentage of deaths from Heart Disease to total deaths is 33.9 as compared with 28.9 in 1954.

Pulmonary Causes.

There were 48 deaths from Pulmonary Causes, 1 of these being due to Tuberculosis, 11 were due to Pneumonia, 25 were due to Bronchitis, 3 were due to Influenza, and 8 were due to other lung causes.

Respiratory Disease.

	Male	Female	Total
T. B. Respiratory	1	—	1
Pneumonia	6	5	11
Bronchitis	20	5	25
Influenza	2	1	3
Others	7	1	8
... ..			
	36	12	48

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year a total of 1,072 cases of infectious disease were notified.

A severe outbreak of Measles occurred during the early part of the year, causing much absenteeism from the schools.

One mild case of paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

There were three Food poisoning notifications, and in ^{one} instance a husband and wife developed colicky abdominal pains, diarrhoea, and vomiting, shortly after eating some Ice Cream. Other persons in the neighbourhood also felt ill after eating ice cream from the same vendor but did not inform their doctor. Unfortunately the notifications were received too late to make any effective investigation possible.

In the other food poisoning case reported, Crab was the suspected food consumed.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE.	<i>Rates per 1,000 Population.</i>			
	NOTIFICATION.		DEATHS.	
Typhoid	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal	1	0.03	1	0.03
Scarlet Fever	51	1.6	—	—
Whooping Cough	71	2.2	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	7	0.2	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	898	27.8	1	0.03
Pneumonia	12	0.4	11	0.3
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic	1	0.03	—	—
Acute Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	24	0.7	1	0.03
Tuberculosis, Other	3	0.09	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	0.09	—	—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases in 1955.*(Arranged according to Age).*

DISEASE.	<i>Under</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>to</i> <i>2</i>	<i>to</i> <i>4</i>	<i>to</i> <i>9</i>	<i>to</i> <i>14</i>	<i>to</i> <i>44</i>	<i>to</i> <i>64</i>	<i>plus</i>	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	14	32	4	1	—	—	51
Pneumonia	—	1	—	2	—	4	2	3	12
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	7
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	32	209	288	358	5	5	1	—	898
Whooping Cough	6	17	22	26	—	—	—	—	71
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	—	—	1	1	2	15	2	3	24
Tuberculosis, Other	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
TOTALS	38	228	325	419	11	30	13	8	1072

Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are undertaken either by the General Practitioner or at the Infant Welfare Clinics. The total number of children under 1 year who received the combined injection for the year numbered 129.

The following table shows the number of children immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough during the year.

<i>Diphtheria Immunisation.</i>					<i>Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Imm.</i>		<i>Whooping Cough Immunisation</i>
<i>Primary Doses.</i>			<i>Repeat Doses.</i>				
0-1	1-4	5-15	0-5	5-14	0-1	1-5	
1	28	71	77	144	129	123	—

The Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisation was commenced within the Borough in 1952.

The following table gives the total number of infants in the age groups 0-1 years and 1-5 years who have been immunised since 1953 onwards:

Year	Total Births	Whooping Cough Notifications All Ages	Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Imm.	
			0 — 1	1 — 5
1953	517	111	135	113
1954	539	45	128	136
1955	530	71	129	123

The tables shows that appoximately only 25% of infants are protected against diphtheria and whooping cough in their first year.

Vaccinations.

The total number vaccinated during the year was 152 (all ages), as compared with 198 in 1954. Vaccinations are being done by the General Practitioners and also at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of Lung Tuberculosis cases notified during the year was 24 as compared with 31 in 1954. The Male notifications fell from 19 in 1954 to 17 in 1955, and the Female notifications from 12 in 1954 to 7 in 1955.

The following table shows the number of cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary on the Tuberculosis Register on 1st January, 1955, and 31st December, 1955.

	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.		
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st January, 1955.	124	104	228	13	20	33
31st December, 1955.	108	97	205	10	23	33

Only one death due to Lung Tuberculosis occurred during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

(Arranged according to age)

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—4	1	—	1	—
5—9	1	—	—	—
10—14	1	1	—	—
15—19	2	—	—	—
20—24	1	1	—	—
25—34	3	2	—	—
35—44	4	2	—	1
45—54	1	—	—	1
55—64	1	—	—	—
65 plus	2	1	—	—
Totals	17	7	1	2

The following table shows the number of Lung Tuberculosis cases notified and the rate per 1,000 population, and the deaths due to Lung Tuberculosis and rate per 1,000 population since 1944.

Year	No. of Cases	Case Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1944	35	1.4	10	0.4
1945	47	1.8	12	0.5
1946	37	1.3	14	0.5
1947	30	1.1	13	0.5
1948	30	1.03	7	0.2
1949	42	1.4	13	0.4
1950	24	0.8	10	0.3
1951	17	0.6	8	0.3
1952	46	1.4	4	0.1
1953	50	1.5	5	0.2
1954	31	0.9	6	0.2
1955	24	0.7	1	0.03

Mass Radiography.

The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough during the year. The total number of persons examined was 4,656.

The following table gives the total number examined in age groups for previous years and for 1955.

Year	Total No. Examined	Under 15 yrs.	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60 plus
1952	3,235	29	808	835	630	730	203
1953	5,352	568	1,536	1,075	848	964	361
1955	4,656	1,262	1,226	700	568	664	236

Number found to be abnormal:

1952	1953	1955
2.26%	9.28%	5.54%

Classification of abnormal cases:

	1952	1953	1955
(a) Pulmonary T.B.	0.09%	0.09%	0.0%
(b) Requiring further observation	0.56%	0.73%	0.53%

No cases of active Pulmonary Tuberculosis were found, two cases of Lung Cancer were discovered.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Provision.

Bacteriological examinations of water, milk and ice cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Birkenhead.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(1) General.

(a) Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	230 Beds
(b) Maelor General Hospital:						
Croesnewydd	...	...	...	...	...	156 „
Emergency	...	...	...	...	...	199 „
Isolation	...	...	...	...	...	100 „

(2) Maternity Cases.

Trevalyn Maternity Hospital	45 „
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	------

(3) Orthopaedic.

Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital,
Gobowen.

CLINICS.

(1) Orthopaedic.

The diagnoses and After-Care Treatment of Orthopaedic Cases is carried out at the Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital, supplemented by institutional treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen.

(2) Venereal Disease Clinic.

The only V.D. Clinic in the County is established at the Out-Patients' Department of the War Memorial Hospital.

(3) Infant Welfare Clinic.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at four centres weekly within the Borough.

Gatefield, Kings Mills Road	...	Monday Afternoon
No. 1. Grosvenor Road	Monday and Wednesday Afternoon	
Garden Village Institute,		
Kenyon Avenue	...	Wednesday Afternoon
Queens' Park	...	Thursday Afternoon

(4) Ante-natal Clinics.

Ante-natal Clinics are held weekly at No. 1 Grosvenor Road.

Tuesday Morning and Afternoon

Wednesday Morning Only

(5) Eye Clinic.

An Eye Clinic is held on Alternate Friday mornings at No. 1. Grosvenor Road.

(6) Family Planning Clinic.

A Family Planning Clinic is held on Thursday afternoon at Gatefeld Clinic, Kings Mills Road, Wrexham.

(7) Dental Clinic.

Dental Clinics are held weekly at No. 1, Grosvenor Road.,

Maternal and Child Welfare Monday.

Fillings Monday and Friday.

Orthodontics Thursday.

Casuals Friday and Saturday mornings.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**Section 47.**

No action was taken under this Act during the year.

WATER.

During the year 23 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all were reported as being satisfactory except one, which gave a satisfactory report on a repeat examination..

CLEAN FOOD.

During the year, periodic inspections of food shops and school kitchens were made. The hospital kitchens were also inspected at intervals and reports submitted to the appropriate authority.

HOUSING.

A total of 348 houses and flats were erected and occupied during 1955. The number of applicants for Council Houses has increased—at December, 1954 the total number of applications was 1,004, by December, 1955, in spite of the year's housing programme the list had increased to 1,055.

The following table shows the number of applicants for Council Houses as at December, 1954, and December, 1955.

APARTMENTS	1954	1955
(1) Residing in the Borough	521	552
(2) Residing outside the Borough	72	68
HOUSEHOLDERS		
(1) Residing in the Borough	308	328
(2) Residing outside the Borough	103	107
TOTALS	1,004	1,055

A further demand for houses has now been made as a result of the Slum Clearance programme, which is now under way. Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Council have submitted a total of 453 houses for demolition and clearance within the next eight years, with an additional 100 required to replace the Holt Road Prefabricated Houses.

RAINFALL AND METEOROLOGY.

We have again received a comprehensive report on the rainfall and Meteorology from the Honorary Meteorologist, Mr. S. E. Ashmore, and I would like this opportunity of thanking Mr. Ashmore for his report.

Temperature.

Average temperature for the year 1955...	48.8°	
Warmest month—August.		
Temperature ...	64.5°	(The warmest month of the century, except for August, 1947)
Coldest month—February.		
Temperature...	34.3°	
Warmest day—August 23rd.		(The coldest month since February, 1947).
Highest Temperature ...	82.8°	
Coldest day—January 13th.		
Highest Temperature ...	31.4°	
Warmest night—August 23rd.		
Lowest Temperature ...	62.2°	
Coldest night—January 13th.		
Lowest Temperature ...	18.1°	

The first quarter was the coldest since 1947: the months of July and August were the warmest ever recorded and from the standpoint of sunshine and rain the brightest.

Frost.

Last Spring ground Frost ...	June 10th..
First Autumn ground frost ...	October 16th.
Number of days on which there was Ground Frost ...	142.
Number of days on which there was Air Frost ...	77 (Highest since 1941).

Snow.

Snow fell on 45 days (12 above normal)	
Snow remaining on ground ...	37 days (21 above normal).

Fog.

No. of days with Fog in the morning	24 (7 less than normal)
-------------------------------------	-------------------------

Rainfall.

Total for the year	25.42 inches (4.37 less than normal, and except for 1953, the driest year since 1933).
Wettest month—May and June	3.47 inches each.
Driest month—July	0.36 inches (the driest July since before 1863).
No. of days with rainfall of .01 inches or more	165 (26 less than normal).
No. of days with rainfall of .04 inches or more	125.
No. of rain hours	528.9.
Wettest day—June 6th	0.85 inches.
Longest period of rain hours in any one day—March 25th	18.2 hours.
Absolute drought	32 days.
Partial drought	40 days.
Hailstones	18 days.
Thunder	9 days.

Pressure.

Average pressure—29.976 inches—.03 inches less than normal.

Wind.

Average 8.1 miles an hour. The winds from the easterly half of the compass were more frequent than usual, particularly from the South-east.

Sunshine.

Much more than usual especially in the summer, and in the months of April and October.

Relative Humidity.

77.6%.

Evaporation.

24.45 inches—the highest recorded, and the amount of rain was only 0.97 higher.

Temperature of the Earth.

4 inches	...	...	...	...	...	47.6°
1 foot	...	...	...	...	...	48.9°
4 feet	...	...	...	...	...	49.2°

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee:

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Tenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspection Department.

There has been a considerable increase in the duties relating to Housing and Atmospheric Pollution, both of these being matters of great national and local interest. I regret to record a considerable decrease in the use of the Municipal Abattoir, and it is to be hoped that the recession is only of a temporary nature.

My thanks are due to you, Mr. Chairman, and to Members of the Committee, for your help and consideration during the year. I would also acknowledge the help of the Medical Officer of Health. Once again, it is pleasing to recognise the loyalty and good work of my Staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McCARTNEY.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABULATED SUMMARY OF SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Total No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	9,606
Total No. of Complaints received	...	...	...	...	533
Total No. of Notices served	...	...	...	...	509
Total No. of Interviews with owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	292

Bed Bugs.

No. of Inspections made	127
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

No. of Council Houses:—

(i) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	10
(ii) Disinfested by this Department	...	...	...	...	10

No. of Other Premises:—

(i) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	4
(ii) Disinfested by this Department at owners' expense	...	...	...	...	4

The position with regard to bug infestation is more satisfactory than it has ever been. Not only is the number of infestations less, but the type of infestation is much less severe. There is no doubt that modern methods of treatment are far more effective, and it is unusual to find cases recurring as they used to do in past years.

Cinemas and Places of Entertainment.

No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	11
No. of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	—
No. of Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	—

Closets.

No. of water-closets repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	55
No. of flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	23
No. of new water-closet pans or pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	22
No. provided with supply of water	...	...	...	...	12

Common Lodging Houses.

No. registered at December 31st, 1955	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Inspections made—(Day)	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Inspections made—(Night)	...	...	...	...	1
No. of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	—
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	—
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	...	—

Drains.

Drains constructed or reconstructed	16
Repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	12
Ventilated	...	...	...	2
Gullies provided or renewed	...	...	...	11
Tests to existing drains	...	...	...	2
New sinks provided	...	...	...	12
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	9
Soil and ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4

Factories (Excluding Bakehouses).

No. of Factories in District (Mech.)	...	...	...	185
No. of Factories in District (Non-Mech)	...	...	...	75
No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	44
No. of contraventions found	...	...	...	3
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	3
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	—

Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, Etc.

No. of investigations carried out	...	...	...	67
Disinfection arrangements are carried out by the Wrexham Isolation Hospital Staff to the satisfaction of the Health Department.				

Offensive Trades.

No. of Businesses in District	...	...	...	6
No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	20
No. of contraventions found	...	...	...	—
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	—
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	—

Rodent Control.

No. of Premises inspected	.....	...	...	893
No. of Premises found infested	...	...	...	201
No. of visits made	...	...	...	2,783

Removal of Household Refuse.

No. of new ashbins provided by informal action	...	32
No. of new ashbins provided by Statutory action	...	66

River Gwenfro.

Three samples were taken from different points of the River Gwenfro during July, and were found reasonably satisfactory. Nevertheless, the condition of this watercourse gives some cause for concern. There is no doubt that the river is polluted as it enters the Borough, and joint action is now being arranged by the Borough Council, Wrexham Rural District Council and the Dee and Clwyd River Board.

Sanitary Defects Remedied.**Dampness.**

No. of roofs renewed or repaired	110
No. of eavesgutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	94
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	17
Yard drainage improved	1

Interior Work.

No. of walls repaired	106
No. of walls rendered or repointed	38
No. of ceilings repaired	16
No. of floors repaired	57
No. of chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	10
No. of fireplaces repaired or renewed	39
No. of washing boilers repaired or renewed	5
Damp proof courses provided and dampness remedied ...	25
Offensive accumulations removed	1
No. of doors and windows repaired or renewed	213
No. of staircases repaired	9
Ventilation improved	3
Sufficient water supply provided	4

Shops Acts (Hours of Closing).

No. of complaints received	1
No. of visits made	4

Smoke Emission and Abatement.

No. of smoke observations made	85
No. of visits made	118
No. of Notices served (Informal)	5
No. of deposit gauges sited in the Borough	2

The average monthly deposit of soot etc., for the past three years is as follows:—

	1953.	1954.	1955.
Parish Church Site	19 tons.	24 tons.	22 tons
Cartrefle College Site ...	7 tons.	9 tons.	10 tons.

Much more attention and time was devoted to this work during the year, and the number of visits made to boiler installations etc., was three times as many as in the previous year.

The recording gauges, measuring the atmosphere deposit in the area, show a decrease in the central area, but a slight increase in pollution in the non-industrial zone.

It would appear that the new Clean Air Act will be an accomplished fact by the end of 1956, and this new legislation, despite its critics, should be of considerable value to local authorities in their efforts to abolish pollution of the atmosphere. I think one of the first things to be considered will have to be the most effective method of administration, and in this connection, joint action by local authorities in this area will merit serious study.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No. of Swimming Baths in the district ...	...	...	...	1
No. of samples of water taken ...	...	...	...	15
No. of samples satisfactory ...	...	...	...	14

Tents, Vans, Sheds, Etc.

No. of Inspections made ...	...	...	...	...	14
No. of Contraventions found ...	...	...	...	...	—

Water Supply.

No. of samples taken for Analysis ...	...	...	...	...	23
No. of samples satisfactory ...	...	...	...	...	22

HOUSING.

Further progress has been made during the year on the survey of houses in the Borough. In fact, apart from modern houses, both Council owned and private, details of occupation and condition have been obtained of nearly all the remaining houses in the Borough. Information has been obtained on a number of matters such as overcrowding, under-occupation, provision of bathrooms, hot water supply etc., and I hope to present this information to the Committee in due course.

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of dwelling-houses where defects were remedied in consequence of Informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	85
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(A) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—Section 93.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Abatement Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	71
---	----

(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	44
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	27

Section 45.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defective water-closets to be repaired	28
(2)...No. of dwelling-houses where defective water-closets were repaired after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	22
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	6

Section 39.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served for the renewing or repairing of existing drains	55
(2) No. of dwelling-houses where the existing drains were renewed and cleansed:—	
(a) By Owners	34
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	6
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at the end of year	15

Section 138 and Water Act, 1945. Section 30.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting Owner to provide water supply in pipes	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which water supply was provided after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	—

(B) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served under Section 11	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	—
(3) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4) No. of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of Undertaking given by Owner	...	...	...	...	...	—
(5) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertaking from owners accepted not to re-let houses for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	4

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	—
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	—

(E) Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(1) (a) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	} Not Known.
(b) No. of families dwelling therein				
(c) No. of persons dwelling therein				
(2) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year			2	
(3) (a) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year			52	
(b) No. of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	202	
(4) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses again became overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...		Not Known	

Clearance of Unfit Houses.

In April, a Compulsory Purchase Order, affecting 27 houses in the first post-war Clearance Area, was confirmed without modification by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

In accordance with the provision of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Council's proposals for dealing with unfit houses in the Borough were duly submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The programme allowed for the clearance and individual demolition of 286 houses in the first 5 years, to be followed by a further 167 houses over the following 3 years; a total of 453 houses over an eight year period. By the end of 1955, action had already been taken with regard to 38 houses in the programme, and a further 82 houses were ready for formal representation to the Council.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The undermentioned table gives details of the number and type of food premises within the Borough, and the number of inspections made during the year. Six informal Notices were served during the year and all were complied with.

	No. in District.	No. of Inspections made.
Bakehouses	25	173
Butchers' Shops	41	69
Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars	27	133
Dairies and Milk Shops	13	13
Fried Fish Shops	16	119
Fruit and Greengrocers	45	5
General Provision Shops	104	232
Hotels and Public Houses	60	88
Ice-Cream Premises	96	37
Wet Fish Shops	7	18
Other Food Premises	6	11

The new Food Hygiene Regulations will operate from January 1st, 1956, and all food traders have been made aware of their obligations. A small number of private traders have anticipated the requirements of the new Regulations, and are to be congratulated on their enterprise. I must again thank the Markets Committee for their continued progress in the Butchers' Market; the year 1956 should see their plans much nearer completion.

However, there is still much room left for big improvements in the handling and distribution of food, and the new powers given to local authorities should lead to considerable progress in a field where there has long been too much apathy by both the general public and some sections of the food trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

A total of 45 Formal samples and 47 Informal samples were taken under the provisions of this Act during the year.

The articles sampled were as follows:—

Formal.					Informal			
Milk	...	...	...	45	Cheese	...	...	1
					Lemon Cheese	...	...	1
					Ice-Cream	...	...	12
					Marmalade	...	...	1
					Milk	...	...	2
					Luncheon Meat	...	...	1
					Tizer	...	...	1
					Tinned Milk	...	...	3
					Pearl Barley	...	...	1
					Sago	...	...	1
					Rice	...	...	1
					Tomato Ketchup	...	...	1
					Butter	...	...	3
					Margarine	...	...	3
					Jam	...	...	9
					Mixed Spice	...	...	1
					Ground Cinnamon	...	...	1
					Ground Ginger	...	...	1
					Mince-meat	...	...	1
					Ground Almonds	...	...	2

Three formal and 4 Informal samples were returned as "Not Genuine."

The average fat content of the formal milk samples taken during the year was 3.64% and the figures for solids-not fat was 8.57%. These figures compare with the national averages of 3.6% fat and 8.7% solids-not-fat. As far as milk fat is concerned, I think the position shows some improvement, but the figure for non-fatty solids is just above the statutory minimum, and below the national average.

With the advent of the new Food and Drugs Act, 1955, comprehensive new legislation is now in force, but it is regrettable to have to say once again that an opportunity has been missed to introduce an absolute standard of quality for milk.

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Evans, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Denbighshire County Council, for the following details of his work in the Borough during the year.

Article	No. Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine, or Sub-Standard
Milk ...	61	61	—
Butter ...	1	1	—
Margarine ...	1	1	—
Cheese Spread ...	2	2	—
Oatmeal ...	1	1	—
Flour ...	1	1	—
Table Jelly ...	1	1	—
Double Cream ...	1	1	—
Sterilized Cream	1	1	—
Fresh Cream ..	1	1	—
Ice-Cream ...	5	5	—
Meat Paste ...	1	1	—
Sausages ...	2	2	—
Luncheon Meat	2	2	—
Suet ...	1	1	—
Tinned Fish ...	1	1	—
Vinegar ...	1	1	—
Salad Cream ...	2	2	—
Condensed Milk	3	3	—
Tinned Carrots	1	1	—
Christmas Pudding ...	1	1	—
Honey ...	1	1	—
Jam ...	1	1	—
Beer ...	1	1	—
Gin ...	1	1	—
Wine (Port Type)	1	1	—
TOTALS ...	96	96	—

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

Duties Relating to Ice-Cream.

There are 96 registered premises for ice-cream including 4 manufacturers.

During the year the following samples were taken:—

Bacteriological—39. These were graded as follows by the Public Health Laboratory Services:—

Grade 1 ...	32
Grade 2 ...	5
Grade 3 ...	1
Grade 4 ...	1

The unsatisfactory Grade 4 ice-cream sample was manufactured outside the Borough. Contact was immediately made with the Health Department of the local authority concerned, and investigations were carried out. Further repeat samples, both by ourselves and the parent local authority, were found to be of excellent quality.

Milk and Dairies Administration.

In addition to 14 registered dairy premises, there are now 44 persons registered as purveyors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 46 Dealer's Licences and 15 Supplementary Licences have been granted.

I give below the details relating to the bacteriological sampling of milk:—

No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	144
(1) School Milks. (Pasteurised).						
Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total number of samples submitted to the Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	...	...	13
Number found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	13
School Milks. (T.T./Pasteurised).						
Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Designated Milks other than School Milks.						
(Pasteurised Milk).						
No. of samples taken	...	54.	No. satisfactory	...	...	46.
(Tuberculin Tested Milk).						
No. of samples taken	...	46.	No. satisfactory	...	...	43.
(Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised Milk).						
No. of samples taken	...	28.	No. satisfactory	...	...	25.

(3) Biological Testing for Tubercle Bacilli.

Two samples of the milk submitted for bacteriological examination were also examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, with negative results.

(4) Other Foods.

Two samples of Vita-Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory.

Inspection of Meat.

During the year, 41,525 animals were slaughtered at the Abattoir and all were inspected as to their fitness for human consumption. Inspection revealed that over 21 tons of meat required condemnation, and this was disposed of for inedible processing purposes.

The number of animals brought to the Abattoir was approximately 31,000 less than in 1954, and this decrease in the throughput coincides with an increase in the number of private slaughtering establishments licensed within a reasonable distance of Wrexham.

The position is, to say the least, disturbing, and it calls for a frank expression of opinion. Wrexham has one of the most modern and well equipped Abattoirs in England and Wales, and has proved itself capable of handling the meat requirements of a population up to 150,000. The charges made at the Abattoir compare most favourably with any public abattoir now in use, and yet it is not being used to more than 33% of its capacity. There is something wrong with a system that permits animals to be slaughtered in unsatisfactory private slaughterhouses, and yet allows a modern Abattoir to be standing idle.

I am aware that there are some good private slaughterhouses, but I am quite certain that a great many now in use will have great difficulty in complying with the suggested standards in the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses.

At the time of preparing this Report, a statement of future Government policy on slaughterhouses, in the light of the recent Interdepartmental Report, is awaited with considerable interest by local authorities. It is to be hoped that a decision will be arrived at which will have taken into consideration, amongst other things, the humane treatment of animals, the hygienic handling and distribution of meat, and the need for adequate meat inspection at all times.

	CATTLE <i>excluding Cows.</i>	COWS.	SHEEP AND LAMBS.	PIGS.	CALVES
No. Slaughtered	2,333	742	26,002	11,834	614
No. Inspected	2,333	742	*29,941	11,834	614
Disease Except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned ..	1	27	35	49	35
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	571	218	1,546	306	8
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	24.5%	33.0%	5.3%	2.15%	7.0%
Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned ..	3	4	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	87	49	—	195	—
% of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.85%	7.14%	—	1.7%	—

* This figure includes dressed carcasses brought into the Abattoir for inspection.

Total weight of meat condemned during the year :—
21 tons, 8 cwts., 3 qrs., 7 lbs.

Canned and Other Food, Etc., Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

Tinned Foods	3,752 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Cheese	100 lbs.
Carrots	784 lbs.	Cheese Waste	158 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Flour	10 lbs.	Pickles	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Cereals	22 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Fish	294 lbs.
Cake	30 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Meat	84 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Fats	44 lbs.	Dried Fruit	126 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Preserves	3 lbs.	Ruskit	112 lbs.
Beverages	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Port Pies	10 lbs.
Potatoes	672 lbs.	Bacon	360 lbs.
Cake Mix	84 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Kippers	112 lbs.
Cheese Spread	77 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Dried Peas	28 lbs.
Sausage	58 lbs.	Miscellaneous	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

TOTAL:—6,942 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Percentage classifications are as follows:—

Home	...	68.48%	=	4,754 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Foreign	...	26.99%	=	1,874 lbs.
Empire	...	4.53%	=	314 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
				<hr/>
				100.00% = 6,942 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
				<hr/>

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Proceedings were instituted on two occasions during the year. Both cases were taken under the Nuisance procedure of the Public Health Act, 1936, and were against the same person in each case. For failing to comply with an Abatement Notice, an Order was made for the work to be done in 28 days, and costs of three guineas were awarded. For failing to comply with the Order a fine of two pounds was imposed with one guinea costs. The work was eventually carried out satisfactorily.

Abattoir Revenue Account—Year Ended 31st March, 1955.

Net Surplus for Year.

